Registered charity number: 1195960

St Leonard's Community Church

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

St Leonard's Community Church

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St Leonard's Community Church

Annual report
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Trustees

Rev Lucy Sablan	
Rev Christopher Stebbing	
Stephen Adams	
Caroline Clifford	
Rev Mike Rutter	Resigned 22 September 2025
Guido Ngando	
Rev Amy Hole	Appointed 24 November 2025

Principal Address
St Leonard's Church
331 Arbourthorne Rd
Sheffield
S2 2FH

Accountants
Seven Hills Accountants Limited
57 Burton Street
Sheffield
S6 2HH

Objectives and activities
The Objects of The CIO are the advancement of the Christian faith, for the benefit of the public especially within the Arbourthorne and Norfolk park areas of Sheffield and in such parts of the United Kingdom, or the world, as the trustees of the charity may from time to time think fit and to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and connected with the charitable work of the charity.

Background
St Leonard's Community Church was set up as a CIO on 29 September 2021, to support the work of the church and community space, based in a converted public house – 331 Arbourthorne Road, S2 2FH.

This history of this church, formally known as "The Beacon", is somewhat complicated:

The assets and liabilities of the former parish of Arbourthorne and Norfolk Park were held in the name of registered charity number 1145963, legally called "St Paul & St Leonard's church", but known as "The Beacon".

By virtue of a Pastoral Scheme, the parishes of 'Heeley' and of 'Arbourthorne and Norfolk Park' merged into a single parish on 1 August 2021. The new parish is known as the 'Parish of Heeley with Arbourthorne and Norfolk Park'. The parish was registered with the Charity Commission on 5 November 2021, charity number 1196414, with the legal name "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Heeley with Arbourthorne and Norfolk Park".

A transfer in of assets and liabilities from "St Paul & St Leonard's church" to "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Heeley with Arbourthorne and Norfolk Park" took place as at 1 August 2021.

This charity was set up to receive the cash assets and any liabilities relating to St Leonard's Church once a Bishop's Mission Order had been granted. Following the granting of a lease to St Leonard's and transfer of funds to St Leonard's, the Bishops Mission Order has operated independently since 1 January 2023.

Mission at St Leonard's Community Church is led by Revd Lucy Sablan who was licensed to the Bishop's Mission Order at its creation in 2022.

Achievements and performance

More information on activities can be found here:
https://www.saintleonards.co.uk/

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit, and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Worship Services and Discipleship

Services:

- Our Wednesday morning prayer service 'REFRESH' has built a stable congregation of 10-15.
- Our Sunday afternoon service is seeing an increasing number of congregation members take on roles leading, speaking and serving in other ways.
- We held a 'forget me not' service on All Saints Day which was received well by the community and many who have not attended a service with us before joined in.
- A huge thank you to our services team and to Our Children's worker and Curate who have all given so much to our services this year.

Discipleship:

- The wellbeing group (A group combining discussing wellbeing and mental health with prayer and faith discussions) has been a real highlight of church life this year. With a growing and committed group of people it has in turn enriched the spiritual life of the wider community using the church building through the prayer cards (and more recently prayer book) they have created. This group is beginning to be replicated elsewhere in the Diocese. Huge thanks to Rachel and Britt for their leadership of this group. A version of the Wellbeing group is also being run after the youth group and is being enthusiastically engaged with.
- 2 bible study/small groups have been meeting this year including a new one led by Kim which has been exploring women in the bible. Thanks to all who have hosted and led these groups.

Wellbeing Group

- Wellbeing have been fortunate enough to receive a grant in May/June 2025 for £1,000. These funds enable us to provide a simple meal and subsidise the crafts and other activities that we may need in our weekly sessions.
- Our numbers have fluctuated throughout the year, but we generally tend to get between six and ten on any given week. We also whenever possible like to give those unable to attend that week the craft or activity to do in their own time.

- Each week we also print out a prayer card including bible verse which are made available to anyone using the church or community space. Then at the end of each year we compile a booklet with the prayers we write alongside the bible verse and a space for personal reflection. These are available to take with a minimum suggested donation of £1, this is to help recoup some of the costs incurred towards the production and professional printing each year.

Mission and Evangelism
This has continued to be a focus for our operations as we establish ourselves in the community and try to serve it well.

- We ran 'Alive', a course exploring some of the main themes of faith, after the café on a Wednesday. This has led to engagement with other areas of church life from a couple of people who joined
- Thoko and Britt have been regularly prayer walking in the area and inviting others to join them.
- Our Pub Tea Nights continue to be a regular highlight with many local families joining in. +Pete joined our November pub night and had a Q&A with the kids in the kids group. We have also secured council funding for the food so that we can ensure we have enough budget to cook healthy and wholesome meals for the families who join. Again, thank you to all who have helped cook, lead activities and run the kids group.
- Connect Café is thriving, with great volunteers and its own community. Many of the community are joining in other areas of church life and we are well established in the area as a warm space and a meeting spot.

Youth, Children and Families Work

- Roots after school club has gone from strength to strength, regularly seeing around 20 kids joining. The council recently identified provision for young people of primary age as a gap in the area, and so it is wonderful that we have been able to serve in this way. A huge thanks to Lynne and the team for their work in this area
- A new SEN Toddler group 'Little Bees' began, led by Lynne, and was really well received by those who came along. Through trying out the format it has been discerned that a slight shift in direction may be the best thing, and the group will be restarting later in 2026 as an SEN parents/carers drop in with toddler group.
- A new youth community started this year and has quickly grown a solid group of around 12 young people. The group have informal activities and eat together. Thanks to Britt and the volunteers who help make this happen.

Ecumenical

- J:10:10, a Monday evening service in collaboration with the Salvation Army and Church Army has continued but is in the process of being reviewed.

Buildings & Maintenance

- We continue to maintain the building as best as we can to ensure that it is safe for all our users.
- We have water ingress from the leaky roof, as soon as we get the lease extension, we will try to secure funding as the damage to the flat roofs are now causing damage inside the building. We are also having issues with the water damaging the mortar and rendering on the outside walls.
- Our main issues have been the continually rising costs and we are concerned that building costs will continue to rise.

- Our original gardener left us and we have a new young man who is doing a great job in the gardens and maintains all of our existing gardening equipment, thus reducing our costs.
- We are continuing efforts to extend the buildings lease however this is very slow moving with solicitors having to be chased for any progress to happen.

Future plans
In the next year we are looking to start an after-school church to reach out to offer a church service to the families we work with.

Financial review
It has again been an encouraging year with giving from the congregation exceeding the initial budgeted figures. This along with the success in securing a number of grants has meant that the work and ministry of the church has been able to continue and develop through the year.

As ever challenges have remained not least in keeping a check on the utility costs. New contracts were entered into during 2025, with Yu Energy providing gas and British Gas providing electricity! Having been on a fixed monthly cost for the gas previously it did mean that we had a significant rebate at the end of the contract. The fabric of the building has also raised some concerns and repairs and maintenance have been ongoing.

The church committed to paying £1,650 to the Diocese as its share of the Common Fund and this was paid in full. Based on the giving and income received during 2025, Trustees agreed that the Common Fund contribution to the diocese would be £5,000 in 2026.

The trustees agreed a formal reserves policy in 2024 reserves to cover ongoing costs along with covering unforeseen circumstances. For 2025 this target was £6,500. Free reserves (general fund cash reserves) as at 31 December 2025 were £18,705. The trustees consider this balance sufficient when considering cash flow needs and the 2026 budget.

Safeguarding

"The care and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of the whole church. Everyone who participates in the life of the church has a role to play in promoting a safer church for all." Note 1

St Leonard's Safeguarding Officer is Charlotte Hutton. So far as the Trustees are aware, they have complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding.

Note 1: extract from promoting a Safer Church, House of Bishops policy statement.

The trustees declare that they have approved the annual report on 26 April 2026.

Signed on their behalf by:

Rev Lucy Sablan Chair

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Leonard's Community Church ("the CIO")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

S Lightfoot

Sarah Lightfoot, FCA, DChA
Seven Hills Accountants Limited
57 Burton Street
Sheffield
S6 2HH

27 April 2026

St Leonard's Community Church
Receipts and payments account
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Receipts from:						
Voluntary Giving						
Planned giving		12,949	-	-	12,949	16,252
Collections at services		(81)	81	-	-	10
Other giving		287	-	-	287	275
Grants		-	2,877	-	2,877	11,888
Fundraising activities		-	357	-	357	1,576
Church activities						
Event income		493	-	-	493	752
Rent from Hall		21,930	-	-	21,930	26,875
Other income						
Arbourthourne Pond		-	-	-	-	-
Salary contributions		1,361	-	-	1,361	4,233
Other income		2,780	2,340	-	5,120	407
Investment income		6	-	-	6	29
Total receipts		**39,725**	**5,655**	**-**	**45,380**	62,297
Payments from:						
Church activities						
Mission giving and donations		-	-	-	-	69
Common fund		1,650	-	-	1,650	1,000
Clergy and staff expenses		1,646	258	-	1,904	2,303
Salaries, wages and honoraria		15,610	6,529	-	22,139	15,333
Mission and evangelism costs						
Café costs		688	150	-	838	1,592
Salon costs		-	2,544	-	2,544	-
Other mission and evangelism costs		2,570	2,613	-	5,183	4,469
Church running expenses						
Upkeep of services		912	-	-	912	2,112
Building maintenance costs		6,224	-	-	6,224	12,858
Building utilities		7,477	-	-	7,477	12,472
Insurance		902	-	-	902	1,006
Garden costs		507	-	-	507	154
Accountancy and Independent examination fees		648	-	-	648	540
Other running expenses		1,570	-	-	1,570	866
Arbourthourne Pond costs		-	277	-	277	955
		40,404	**12,371**	**-**	**52,775**	55,729
Net receipts/(payments)		(679)	(6,716)	-	(7,395)	6,568
Transfers		(5,136)	5,136	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(5,815)	(1,580)	-	(7,395)	6,568
Total cash funds brought forward		24,520	7,275	-	31,795	25,227
Total cash funds carried forward		**18,705**	**5,695**	**-**	**24,400**	31,795

St Leonard's Community Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash funds						
Bank current accounts		18,705	5,695	-	24,400	31,795
Total cash funds		**18,705**	**5,695**	**-**	**24,400**	31,795
Investment and property assets						
CCLA investment fund - income shares	**3**	-	-	18,580	18,580	19,354
Total investment and property assets		-	-	18,580	18,580	19,354

St Leonard's Church is a converted pub that is licenced to carry out religious activities, rather than being consecrated property, therefore it is appropriate to recognise ownership and valuation.

Assets retained for church use
The PCC own a variety of furniture and equipment for use in church activities. No valuation is put on these items.

Debtors					
Gift aid recoverable (not valued)					
Salary contributions	4,780	-	-	4,780	1,361
Other income - student placement	5,096	-	-	5,096	4,095
Total debtors	9,876	-	-	9,876	5,456
Liabilities					
Salaries, wages and honoraria	1,628	1,907	-	3,535	1,121
Accountancy and Independent examination fees	672	-	-	672	648
Total liabilities	**2,300**	**1,907**	**-**	**4,207**	1,769

Approved by the trustees on 26 April 2026.

Signed on their behalf by:



Rev Lucy Sablan
Chair

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The account are prepared in line with the Charity Commission guidance on Receipts and payment" accounts and the Church Accounting Regulation 2016.

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the organisation during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

Funds

General funds are donations and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the organisation without further specified purpose.

Designated funds are set aside at the discretion of the PCC.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

Endowment funds arise from specific gifts left to the church and are held as investments. The investment income generated from these investments can be used towards the same purposes that the investments are held for.

2 Restricted funds

	Cash funds brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Cash funds carried forward £
Friends of Arbourthorne Pond	920	-	(277)	-	643
Building	790	357	-	-	1,147
Ward pot 2024	680	-	(112)	(200)	368
Salon	4,586	-	(2,850)	-	1,736
Little Bees	295	-	-	-	295
Retreat	4	-	-	(4)	-
Centenary Project Worker	-	2,061	(7,416)	5,355	-
Wellbeing	-	1,129	(498)	-	631
café	-	150	(150)	-	-
Deanery day	-	210	(210)	-	-
Youth	-	750	(421)	-	329
youth 2	-	917	(371)	-	546
Other	-	81	(66)	(15)	-
	7,275	**5,655**	**(12,371)**	**5,136**	**5,695**

Main funds

Friends of Arbourthorne Pond

The Church is acting as agent for this community group who do not have their own bank account - the vicar Lucy Sablan sits on their board. The funds are spent as set out by the group.

Building

Fundraising towards the cost of bulding maintenance, especially roof work.

Ward pot 2024

A ward pot grant towards Pub Nights.

Salon

A grant to support the set up of a locally rooted salon space that offers employment support and free and affordable self care for those who are least able to access it.

Little Bees

A grant towards a SEND support group.

Centenary Project Worker

Grants towards the worker and their activities. The transfer represents costs covered by general funds.

3 Endowment funds

	Cash funds brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Cash funds carried forward £
Endowment fund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

Endowment fund

This endowment fund is held as CCLA income shares. The investment valuation at the year end was £18,580.

During the year the associated investment dividends of £538 were paid directly into the Sheffield Diocese Board of Finance bank account and allocated to the common fund to support clergy stipends in the year.

4 Related party transactions

Trustees and their close relatives donated £10,389 in addition to any amounts given within the collection, during the year (2024: £3,800).

Trustees received no remuneration for their role as trustees during the year. Clergy and staff expenses primarily comprise costs to allow the clergy and staff to fulfil their roles, for example telephone recharges and mileage contributions, as well as vicarage water costs. Clergy who were also trustees received travel and phone benefits of £378 in the year (2024: £85).

There are overlapping trustees with the below charities - these connections exist so that the activities within the extended parish can be managed.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Heeley with Arbourthorne and Norfolk Park (Christ Church Heeley) (registered charity 1196414)

Connected trustees S Adams
Rev A Hole

The church building (331 Arbourthorne Road) is being leased to the community church for their use as a worship and community centre, for a peppercorn rent.

A shared admin worker was appointed, with costs being split betwteen Christ Church Heeley and St Leonard's - payments were made between the two to share the costs. £nil was received by St Leonard's in the year (2024: £4250), £4,780 was due re 2025.

St Paul & St Leonard's Church (registered charity 1145963)

Connected trustees S Adams

There were no transactions during the year. The charity is dormant and needs to be closed with the Charity Commission.